I have not mailed the original of this letter because I wanted to see if Jim Garrison would want to use this information, I've not had response from his office in decision though a phone call in acknowledgement.

Route 1, Box 275
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387
December 19, 1967

Josiah Thompson
Haverford College
Penna.

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Your book Six Seconds in Dallas, as abbreviated in the Saturday Evening Post, is a valuable addition to the public information, and it brings much new light on the association of the assassins in their escape. You are to be commended for it.

After reading the Post condensation I counted on taking the first free time available to me to check up on the truly controversial aspects of your case, the assertion that the first bullet, that hit Kennedy's back, came from the East Depository Window after the President cleared the intervening tree, and with it the corollary that the spent bullet came from that window at that time. After much painstaking work I can confidently say that this sequence of shots just won't work out in relation to the passage behind the tree. The Altgens photo is clearly taken at the time the Presidential limousine was just arriving at the fourth road sign, which is where the Warren Commission placed the Zapruder 210 frame. The Altgens photo by the FBI photography specialist's testimony shows the limousine and other cars after definite reaction to the shooting. The followup car after the vice-president's car has its door open and there is other evidence of alarm. This made it necessary for the FBI and Commission to fraudulently assert that the Altgens photo was taken at the Zapruder 255th frame (which had enough similarity in positions of secret servicemen). But having reconstructed that picture the FBI knew well that this was not true, for by the 255th frame they noted that the Presidential limousine had passed the obstructing sign, whereas at the fourth road sign it had not done so. It follows that the first shot that hit the President must have come well before the tree was cleared. It could have come at frame 186 from the "sniper's nest", and it could have come before the concealment of the tree, only if the Zapruder time sequence in relation to the tree was off. Phil Willis' picture #5 was probably taken at frame 202, and it too was taken after the first shot.

A major argument for the back shot coming from the Records building is that the FBI's account of the autopsy finding includes the "45° to 60° angle to the body, which would coincide with a 90° to 45° angle from the buildings to the ground.

[illegible] angle of shot, would correspond with the 30° angle to the top of the Depository building, which is so much higher than the sniper's nest and the latter further [illegible] (the Depository building is about 75 feet farther). Thus the first shot in [illegible] from that building. Your theory, though neat, does not fit the facts.

I go into this because a clear consensus needs to develop on the basic facts if we are to solve this challenge to American democracy. I would like to know why you discounted the calculations of others working on the case that tended to show that the first clear shot could not have come after passage behind the tree. I confess that I had not gone into these arguments which came before your article in the Post came out, and was unclear enough to have to spend much time studying all the documentation, to establish the facts. And in the course of this I found that all other material on the subject I had available had been cursory or inaccurate. For example, Weisberg had assumed that the FBI and Warren Report were right in giving the Zapruder-Altgens coordination as Z255 when by Shaneyfelt's arguments as reproduced in the Hearings I found this was clearly impossible. Had he been right, as I at first assumed, the first shot would definitely have been before the limousine passed behind the corner of the tree, and the Zapruder films would have to be re-coordinated with the pavement marking in which the President's limousine passed the fourth post [illegible] at frame 255. This creates more difficulties than it solves.

I also came to the conclusion that this handling of the Altgens picture is one of the clearest cases of falsification of evidence used in the Warren Report. Commission Exhibits 900 and 903 are among the most vulnerable in the report. The American public seems to be relatively accepting of the dispute [illegible] and uncertainty about the Kennedy assassination. Properly your articles should have blown the lid off the nation. But the skillful disparagement of critical studies (as in Time's comments on your study) and the manipulation of public opinion seems to have largely eliminated effective public reaction. The more is the Saturday Evening Post to be honored. I do wonder what your experience with Life was; it is not surprising that Life did not publish your study.

I will inclose a couple of things I have done on the case.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Griffin Morgan